

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

a holding step for holding an original database in which a correction condition corresponding to a reproducing property of an output unit is stored;

a forming step for, as calibration processing, acquiring from the original database a gradation correction table, the gradation correction table corresponding to a recording medium to which image output is executed and head rank information of a head used in said [[the]] output unit to create a new database, wherein the calibration processing not only creates said new database but also forms a management file indicating the new database has already been created;
and

a correction processing step for effecting correction processing regarding input data by using the created new database,

wherein, when the image output is executed by said output unit, it is confirmed whether or not a the calibration processing not only creates said new database file corresponding to the but also forms a management file based on head identification information of a head used in said output unit has already been created, and

wherein the creation of the new database file is executed if it is confirmed that the new database file is not yet created, and the creation of the new database file is not executed if it is confirmed that the new database file has already been created when the output unit is
exchanged.

2. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said management file is held in a file different from a file for holding said new database.

3. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said output unit uses a plurality of heads, the database file is managed on the basis of a combination of the head identification information of said heads.

4. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the number of databases created by the calibration is controlled on the basis of said management file, and, when the number of created databases becomes greater than a predetermined value, an oldest database in other already created databases is deleted.

5. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein upon uninstallation of a printer driver, all of the created database file and the management files are deleted.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding an original database in which a correction condition corresponding to a reproducing property of an output unit is stored;

forming means for, as calibration processing, acquiring from the original database a gradation correction table, the gradation correction table corresponding to a recording medium to which image output is executed and head rank information of a head used in said [[the]] output unit to create a new database, wherein the calibration processing not only creates said new database but also forms a management file indicating the new database has already been created; and

correction processing means for effecting correction processing regarding input data by using the created new database,

wherein, when the image output is executed by said output unit, it is confirmed whether or not a the calibration processing not only creates said new database file corresponding to the but also forms a management file based on head discriminating information of a head used in said output unit has already been created, and

wherein the creation of the new database file is executed if it is confirmed that the new database file is not yet created, and the creation of the new database file is not executed if it is confirmed that the new database file has already been created when the output unit is exchanged.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores therein a program for executing an image processing method comprising:

a holding step for holding an original database in which a correction condition corresponding to a reproducing property of an output unit is stored;

a forming step for, as calibration processing, acquiring from the original database a gradation correction table, the gradation correction table corresponding to a recording medium to which image output is executed and head rank information of a head used in said [[the]] output unit to create a new database, wherein the calibration processing not only create said new database but also forms a management file indicating the new database has already been created; and

a correction processing step for effecting correction processing regarding input data by using the created new database,

wherein, when the image output is executed by said output unit, it is confirmed whether or not a the calibration processing not only creates said new database file corresponding to the but also forms a management file based on head identification information of a head used in said output unit has already been created portion, and

wherein the creation of the new database file is executed if it is confirmed that the new database file is not yet created, and the creation of the new database file is not executed if it is confirmed that the new database file has already been created ~~when the output unit is~~ exchanged.

9. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

a holding step for holding an original database in which a correction condition corresponding to a reproducing property of an output unit is stored;

a forming step for, as calibration processing, acquiring from the original database a gradation correction table, the gradation correction table corresponding to a recording medium to which image output is executed and head rank information of a head used in said [[the]] output unit to create a new database, wherein the calibration processing not only creating said new database but also forming a management file indicating the new database has already been created; and

a correction processing step for effecting correction processing regarding input data by using the created new database,

wherein, when the image output is executed by said output unit, it is confirmed whether or not a ~~the calibration processing not only creates said new database file corresponding to but also forms a management file based on head identification information of a heads used in~~ said output unit has already been created ~~portion~~, and

wherein the creation of the new database file is executed if it is confirmed that the new database file is not yet created, and the creation of the new database file is not executed if it is confirmed that the new database file has already been created ~~when the output unit is~~ exchanged.